

## Message Text

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17

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-14

SSC-01 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 120650Z JUL 74

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5566

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, AS

SUBJ: NSW PREMIER ASKIN'S RETIREMENT

1. SYDNEY PRESS REPORTS PREMIER ASKIN RETURNED FROM LENGTHY OVERSEAS TRIP TODAY AND ANNOUNCED ON ARRIVAL HE WILL RETIRE IN DECEMBER, THUS CONFIRMING LONG EXPECTED ANNOUNCEMENT. ASKED ABOUT HIS SUCCESSOR, HE SAID THERE ARE THREE GOOD MEN AVAILABLE, ONE OF WHOM IS MINISTER OF EDUCATION ERIC WILLIS, PLUS TWO OTHERS, "WHO HAVE NOT HAD THE SAME BREADTH OF EXPERIENCE."

2. IT HAS BEEN WIDELY EXPECTED THAT ERIC WILLIS WOULD BE TAPPED AS ASKIN'S SUCCESSOR OVER MINISTER OF JUSTICE MADDISON AND MINISTER OF LANDS AND TOURISM LEWIS, AND ASKIN'S STATEMENT WAS A BROAD CONFIRMATION OF THIS. MOREOVER, IT HAS BEEN APPARENT IN THE PAST SIX WEEKS THAT WILLIS IN HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAS BEEN TALKING INCREASINGLY AS IF HE WERE ALREADY PREMIER OR WERE ASSURED OF BECOMING PREMIER.

3. WILLIS AND DEPUTY PREMIER CUTLER (COUNTRY PARTY) ARE TAKING THE LEAD IN THE TWO STATE BY-ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 20

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IN COOGEE AND GOULBURN RESPECTIVELY. ASKIN INDICATED HE WOULD

TAKE A BACK SEAT. THE TWO BY-ELECTIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE  
LIBERAL/COUNTRY PARTY COALITION WHICH PRESENTLY HAS A MAJORITY  
OF THREE IN NEW SOUTH WALES. THEY ARE ALSO marginally  
SIGNIFICANT AS INDICATORS OF POST-FEDERAL ELECTION POLITICAL  
TRENDS. IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS, BOTH L/CP LEADERS AND  
LABOR LEADERS HAVE INDICATED GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT THE  
COUNTRY PARTY WILL MOST LIKELY WIN GOULBURN, BUT COOGEE IS  
VERY DICEY BETWEEN THE LIBERALS AND LABOR.  
HANNAH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRIME MINISTER, RETIREMENT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 12 JUL 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** shawdg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974SYDNEY01435  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
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**Film Number:** D740186-0689  
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**Office:** ACTION EA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
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**Review Date:** 08 JUL 2002  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NSW PREMIER ASKIN'S RETIREMENT  
**TAGS:** PGOV, AS, (ASKIN)  
**To:** STATE  
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